



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

stone came next to the chain of lakes west of Taraganika, and died nobly in harness. Well, we are sent to complete what these several travelers have begun. While they are content with having discovered lakes, I must be content with exploring these lakes and discovering their sources, and unraveling the complications of geographers at home. It is a mighty work, but a fourth of that work is already done.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The Eucalyptus or Australian gum-tree continues to be largely planted in California not only for ornamental but also for economic purposes. A large forest of these trees has been planted by a company and is situated on the line of railroad between Los Angeles and Anaheim. A recent statement of the company's affairs shows that it owns two hundred acres of fine land, on which are houses and other improvements. About one hundred and forty acres have been set out in Eucalyptus, containing about eighty thousand trees. Of these some thirty thousand are from nine to fifteen feet high. The total cost up to January 1st, including purchase of land, houses, teams, etc., is \$12,523. The estimated expense for the first year, prior to incorporating the company, was \$12,750, the actual expense being less than the estimate. The present value of the property is from \$40,000 to \$60,000, and this at a total cost of \$12,523. The remaining sixty acres will be set out by the 5th of May, after which time the expenses will be but little. At the start the estimated total cost for four years was \$1,000 to \$20,000 or 20 per cent. of the capital, which will be reduced, according to later estimates, to \$16,000 or \$18,000, and it is believed that at the end of four years the property will be worth not less than \$100,000. Only a few shares have changed hands during the year, and these at an advance equal to three per cent. The plantation is owned by seventeen persons. The young trees (*Eucalyptus*) have been produced in greater numbers in California the past season than ever before, and are sold by the nurserymen at much lower prices than previously, with an increasing demand.

— An essay by Dr. C. F. Lütken on the fresh-water fishes of Brazil, including some interesting new genera and species, and illustrated with a number of exquisite plates and numerous fine wood-cuts, appears in the memoirs of the Royal Academy of Copenhagen. The work is based on collections made some years ago by Professor J. Reinhardt. The memoir will prove of a good deal of interest to American ichthyologists.

— The veteran microscopist and naturalist, C. G. Ehrenberg, died in July last, aged eighty-two. His intellectual activity remained undiminished almost to the last, and though he failed to interpret aright the structure of the Infusoria, his zoölogical and micro-geological works were still valuable and original.

— Messrs. Macmillan & Co. announce as to be published in October

"The Atlantic. An Account of the General Results of the Exploring Expedition of H. M. S. Challenger." By Sir Wyville Thompson, F. R. S., LL. D., Director of the Scientific Staff of the Expedition. Two other volumes containing the Voyages of the Challenger in the Pacific and South seas will follow.

— Prof. C. F. Hartt, chief of the Imperial Geological Survey of Brazil, was at last accounts about sending a party to make a thorough exploration of the Amazonian region in order to connect the work with his more southerly investigations. Mr. O. A. Derby will be a prominent member of this northern division of the survey. At last accounts Professor Hartt was engaged in a careful study of the interior of Brazil.

— In the course of a pleasant speech by Professor Huxley on being introduced to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he said, "It is popularly said abroad that you have no antiquities in America. If you talk about the trumpery of three or four thousand years of history, it is true. But, in the large sense, as referring to times before man made his momentary appearance, America is the place to study the antiquities of the globe. The reality of the enormous amount of material here has far surpassed my anticipation. I have studied the collection gathered by Professor Marsh, at New Haven. There is none like it in Europe, not only in extent of time covered, but by reason of its bearing on the problem of evolution. Whereas, before this collection was made, evolution was a matter of speculative reasoning, it is now a matter of fact and history, as much as the monuments of Egypt. In that collection are the facts of the succession of forms and the history of their evolution. All that now remains to be asked is how; and that is a subordinate question."

— Mr. A. H. Curtiss, who was employed by the Agricultural Department to collect specimens of the trees of the Southern States for the Centennial Exposition, proposes to commence a systematic distribution of Southern plants, and hopes to receive sufficient aid from herbalists to enable him to travel for a number of years for the purpose of making the sets as complete as possible. Commencing with large collections made in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and other States, he intends to issue three hundred species each winter, keeping an exact record of all specimens sent out, so that those lacking fruit, flowers, etc., may be completed in future years (without extra charge). The price per set of three hundred species will be \$25, charges for transportation prepaid by mail or by express to New York. Address A. H. Curtiss, Jacksonville, Florida.

— Mr. Edward Newman, of London, the well-known entomologist, died June 12th at the age of seventy-five. He was editor, at the time of his death, of the *Zoölogist* and *Entomologist*, and the author of several popular works on British butterflies and moths.

— A resolution has been introduced into Congress, according to Har-

per's Weekly, directing the Secretary of State to cause to be published a brief history of the several surveys and expeditions ordered and prosecuted by the United States during the century just closed, including those under the direction of the War, Navy, and Interior Departments, and other bureaus. An appropriation of \$10,000 is suggested for the purpose of carrying this into effect.

— Baron von Nolcken has just returned to Germany from Columbia with ten thousand macrolepidoptera collected by him in that country, besides many of the smaller moths.

— At a meeting of the Paris Geographical Society held August 2d, Lieutenant Wyse announced to the society that the government of Columbia had granted to a company, represented by General Türr, the privilege of constructing a ship-canal through the Isthmus of Darien. A body of surveyors would leave in November, in order to make the final surveys, and he trusted the enterprise would meet with the support of the international committee recently formed under the presidency of M. de Lesseps. M. Leon Drouillet announced that he was about to proceed to America, and would use his best efforts to establish there a sub-committee for the scientific exploration of the American isthmus. Their committee intended to study this question without prejudice, for, in spite of this new concession, our information was as yet very far from being complete.

M. Hayaux du Tilly read a paper on the ivory trade. England alone imported annually 1,200,000 pounds of ivory, and to obtain this quantity it was necessary to kill annually 30,000 elephants, and the ivory supply of the whole world probably caused the destruction of 100,000 elephants annually, and, as females and males were killed indiscriminately, this animal would soon become extinct.

— During the meetings of the American Public Health Association held in Boston, October 2d–6th, Mr. James T. Gardner read a paper on the relations of Topographical Surveys and Maps to Public Health. Some relations of general climatic conditions to the health of man have long been recognized; modern investigations have shown that local causes are as active and effective in producing disease, though more subtle and obscure in their operation.

Those natural local conditions most seriously affecting health are the conformation of the earth's surface and its underlying structure, yet, though this is supported by ample evidence, the exact effects produced are little understood, from lack of facts upon which to base conclusions. To determine the laws of action of the surface structure upon health, detailed and exact records of topography and geology over large areas, and public health records of the regions, are absolutely necessary.

The former class of facts must be ascertained by careful topographical and geological surveys, and registered in maps, which ought to be followed by an equally accurate sanitary survey, based upon these maps

and constantly referred to them. In this manner only the laws of the earth's surface-influence and action upon health will be derived from the philosophical and practical study of facts.

The paper was discussed by Professor Pickering, who referred particularly to the hay fever, and the immunity therefrom of several villages in New Hampshire. The income brought to the state from this very fact, he believed, would pay the cost of a state survey.

Dr. T. Sterry Hunt also spoke on the same subject. He alluded to the advantages of surveys by boring to such a depth as to ascertain the exact character of the underlying soil, and thus to learn the conditions of underground drainage. In many cases where this had been done it had been found that there were often, where it was to be least expected, large basins in the underlying floor of the soil, in which stagnant waters collected.

President Runkle thought that the greatest objection made by legislatures was apt to be the expense of making them; yet he believed that the expenses of the best topographical surveys would all be paid by entirely new industries, which they would create.

The subject was further discussed by Dr. J. S. Billings, U. S. A., and Professor J. D. Whitney, of Cambridge.

Dr. Harris, in behalf of the committee on the proposed sanitary survey of the United States, reported the following resolution:—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the American Public Health Association that in every State, especially the more populous ones, a thoroughly accurate topographical survey is so essentially necessary as a basis of sanitary surveys and systematic drainage, and also the most desirable hygienic researches and works for prevention of disease, that the execution of such state surveys is a duty which should be undertaken by the States as a duty to the life and welfare of the people.

The resolution was adopted.

— The Zoölogical and Botanical Society of Vienna not only commemorated its twenty-fifth anniversary by a festival, but erected an intellectual monument of the event in the form of a fine quarto volume of monographs on various zoölogical and botanical subjects, contributed by its leading members. The volume is well printed and illustrated with twenty plates. Of the more noticeable zoölogical memoirs is one on the morphology of the segments of the body of Orthoptera, by C. Brunner von Wattenwyl. A. von Pelzeln contributes an essay, illustrated by a map, on the geographical distribution of the mammals of the Malay Peninsula, while the lizards and snakes of the Galapagos Islands are described by Dr. Steindachner, the seven plates having been drawn by Konopicki, whose exquisite work is well known to American zoölogists. The large Iguana-like lizards (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus* and *Conolophus subcristatus*) characterizing these islands are beautifully figured.